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2012/07/03 : CIA-RDP90G01353R001300120003-6

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2012/07/03 : CIA-RDP90G01353R001300120003-6

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

William F. Donnelly
Inspector General

EXTENSION

NO.

IG 88-1053

DATE

23 September 1988

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1. Executive Registry
7E12, Hqrs.

26 SEP 1988

Jpl

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3. DDCI
7D60, Hqrs.

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For signature.

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★ U.S. Government Printing Office: 1985-494-834/49156



INSPECTOR GENERAL

INSPECTOR GENERAL

88-1053

22 September 1988

NOTE TO: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Response to Colby

Re the attached letter responding to Bill Colby, there was an IG report in 1972-73. There is considerable chatter in Air America circles about the drug trafficking allegations. (I have seen letters between former Air America members dated September 1988 which one of my inspectors has received.) It is stimulated by a book written by Christopher Robbins about "Air America."

The IG report gives Air America pilots a clean bill of health. But it also points out that small quantities of drugs had been found on aircraft usually for the personal use of the possessor (not the pilot). It is not sanguine about what mechanics and baggage handlers might have done. Although not in the IG report, the recent letters between former Air America members finds them recounting old rumors about persons who might have been caught smuggling drugs in the 1960s. They don't seem to know. It was a long time ago; there is uncertainty. Thus, I think the wording in the letter is as it ought to be.

Perhaps after the letter is mailed, a telephone call to Colby could help clarify. You might share some of the points in the paragraph above. Furthermore, we are not treating Colby's letter as a formal FOIA request. As a lawyer, he may be expecting us to do so. I hope not!

/s/ William F. Donnelly

William F. Donnelly

Attachment

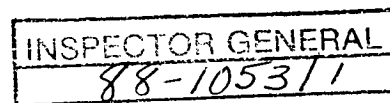


L-205-1R

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505



30 SEP 1988

The Honorable William E. Colby
3028 Dent Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your letter regarding the film "Guns, Drugs and the CIA". I have been traveling and as a result have been delayed in responding. I understand and share your concerns about the allegations made in the film about involvement in drug trafficking by former associates of the Agency in Laos.

As you may be aware, this is not the first time that there have been allegations of complicity in drug trafficking by the Agency or contacts of the Agency. I am aware that persons associated with Air America have been disturbed by such allegations, none of which have been shown to have foundation in fact.

However, your suggestion that an Inspector General's report be released to answer these allegations strikes me as inadvisable. The possible disadvantages of declassifying and releasing the report in our judgment far outweigh the benefits. It has been our policy for 40 years, Bill, to protect the integrity and confidentiality of the inspection process by not disclosing such reports unless there is a criminal case. Moreover, in this particular instance it is not at all clear that your purpose would be served by releasing the Inspector General's report.

I hope you do not interpret my views as suggesting that we are insensitive to the feelings of the former Air America people, General Vang Pao, and others. On the contrary, I very much regret the misguided accusations that have been directed at them.

Sincerely,

/s/ Bob

Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

The Honorable William E. Colby

IG:WFDonnelly: [] (21Sep1988)

STAT

Distribution:

Orig - Addressee

1 - DDCI

1 - ER

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1 - D/PAO

1 - IG Chrono

ROUTING SLIP

TO: *W*

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8	DDS&T				
9	Chm/NIC				
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SUSPENSE		23 Aug 88 Date			

Remarks

To 7, 11 & 14: Please prepare joint response
for DDCI signature.

STAT

W
Executive Secretary

15 Aug '88

Date

3637 (10-81)

ROUTING SLIP

TO:

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Remarks

To 7, 11 & 14: Please prepare joint response
for DDCI signature.

STAT

Executive Secretary

15 Aug '88

Date

3637 (10-81)

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20007

Executive Registry

88-3248X

STAT

August 7, 1988

The Honorable Robert Gates
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Bob:

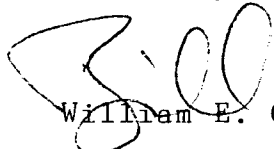
A few months ago, a particularly vicious film was aired on CBS, I believe, entitled "Guns, Drugs and the CIA". Aside from its extreme allegations about the Agency in Central America, about which I have no direct knowledge but assume are far from the facts, it made other allegations about the Agency's operations and allies in Laos, about which I do know something. Incidentally, I appeared on a program with one of the protagonists of the attack, and did what I could to assert a call for some rationality on the subject.

The reason I write you is that some of our old associates from Air America are understandably upset at the allegations made against their service. They also report to me that General Vang Pao, who I am certain was not involved in drug activities during his time of collaboration with the Agency, is equally upset with these allegations against his good name and that of the Mnongs he led so gallantly. As a refugee here now, he has little capability of challenging these assertions against him, and looks to some of us to give the kind of help we might.

Knowing the Agency's policies, I realise that it cannot engage in a public polemic on this question. There is one thing that might help, however, which might be within its capabilities. The statement has been made that in the 1970's the Agency's Inspector General conducted an investigation on this matter. If so, it might be possible to release that report pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act. I realise, and support, that Agency operational files are no longer subject to such release (or even review), but an Inspector General report might fall into another category. For formal purposes, I request such a release.

Obviously, a number of former associates of the Agency - Vang Pao and the Mnongs, the Air America group and former employees such as myself - would be most appreciative of anything you could do to straighten out this false allegation against the good names and service of those who helped us so much in Laos. I know you will do whatever you can, for which I thank you.

Sincerely,


William E. Colby

L-205-11

SECRETARIAT

ROUTING SLIP

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